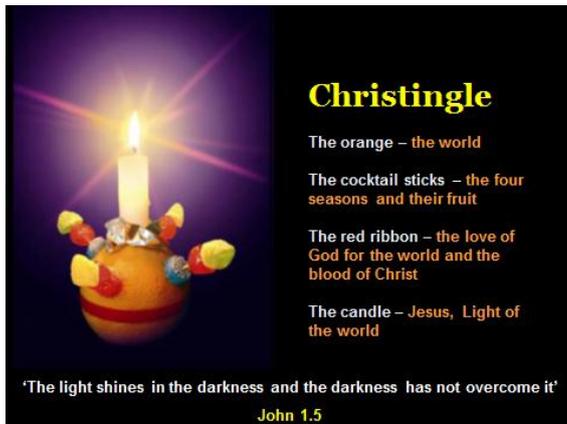


# Advent

## A Season of Expectation



This Sunday we celebrated Christingles ... with a twist. A Christingle is meant to work as a reminder. There are lots of different ways that you can remind yourself of things. You can put a reminder on your phone so that it makes a noise or you could tie a knot in your hanky. A Christingle helps us remember things about Jesus, which makes sense because Christmas is all about him.

*Share experiences of Christingle services in the past (as a child, as an adult).*

The **orange** reminds us that God made the world.

Revelation 4:11 says: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

*Caring for the environment is an act of worship. What do you do to help alleviate general pollution, plastic pollution, and global warming?*

The **candle** reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus came into a dark world and lit it up with his presence.

John 8:12: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*How does Jesus' light work in your life? What stories can you tell your friends?*

The **ribbon** reminds us of Jesus' blood which was shed on the cross.

Romans 5:8: 'God shows his love for us in this – it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!'

You'd think that Jesus' death would be a very sad thing to remember. But it's actually the most important thing to remember about Jesus. Thinking about Jesus without thinking about the cross is like thinking about 'Strictly' without Dancing or 'The Apprentice' without Sir Alan.

*How easy is it to speak about sin and the cross with our friends? What can we learn from each other's experiences (our successes and our failures)?*

The **fruit** reminds us that all the way through the four seasons of the year God is very good to us.

John 10:10: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'

*Life can be difficult and a constant struggle at times. Even as Christians life sometimes does not feel like "life to the full." What do you think Jesus meant by having life to the full?*

This year our Christingle was associated with The Children's Society. The Children's Society works to bring love and light to children in our country who are in dark places. Thank you for all your contributions and prayers.